

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**Minutes
September 24, 1999
10:00 a.m.
Room 433, Blatt Building**

Members Present

Mr. Barnet, Mrs. Berry, Dr. Gummerson, Mr. Martin, Senator Matthews, Mr. McTeer, Mr. Spann, Mr. Staton, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. L. Wilson, Mr. S. Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Anderson introduced two staff persons, Mrs. Paulette Geiger and Mrs. Shellie Allen. Mr. Barnet introduced a new committee member, Mr. Stefan Wilson. Rep. Townsend appoints Mr. Wilson as a business representative.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the July 15-16 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. L. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He reviewed a list of technical issues that the Subcommittee wishes referred to the General Assembly for enabling language. The Committee approved.

Mr. Wilson detailed the time line and process for establishing the absolute ratings. This process begins on September 7 with the Subcommittee.

Mr. Wilson urged the State Department and all involved in the production of the report card to proceed with their work in a timely manner to ensure that the report card can be issued in November 2001.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He provided status information on the review of the EIA programs including the preliminary general recommendations. These were presented for information.

C. Parent Involvement Subcommittee: Mrs. Thompson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. The Task Force is developing its report for presentation to the Subcommittee on October 18 and the Education Oversight Committee on October 21.

D. Public Awareness Subcommittee: Dr. Anderson reported that the video is in production. A "rough cut" screening is to be part of the Subcommittee's October 6 agenda.

E. Staff and Administration Subcommittee: Mr. Barnet described the sequence of events regarding the Baldrige/National Alliance of Business pilot project. The Subcommittee had determined that there should be a cross-group team to examine the criteria and determine its applicability to South Carolina's educational reform effort.

Dr. Anderson summarized the work of the cost-benefit analysis project and the recommendations. The Committee concurred with the three overriding themes: teaching quality, time on task and efficient use of technology. Mr. L. Wilson asked that the recommendations be distributed and that the EOC included them in its legislative package.

IV. **Remarks from a Key Constituency**

Two successful principals, Dr. Rick Starr from Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School and Dr. Diane James from Carver Elementary School, detailed their work and successes at those schools.

V. **General Discussion**

- A. The "Bridge" document: Mr. Barnet reviewed reactions to the Bridge document and asked that alternative wording be recommended on three issues: teacher or educator training; the goals; and the seventh EOC objective, specifically the use of the term "task forces".
- B. The Ad Hoc Committee to Study School Choice/Open Enrollment: Mr. Barnet asked if the EOC members felt the Committee should take a stand on the issues. The Committee asked that Mr. Barnet address the Ad Hoc Committee and indicate that the EOC felt the discussion and any actions on choice would weaken public education. The Committee further said that the issues are disruptive and distracting us from acting on the goals already established and that the effort is divisive at a time when we need to be coming together.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.